

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (replacement)

The stress of a user waiting for the transfer of multiple image data sets can be reduced. When a client requests a URL for displaying thumbnail images from a server, the server starts a CGI program and sends data K for measuring a response time to the client. The client replies when the data is received, and the server measures the response time as a transfer rate on a network. Based on a predetermined permitted transfer time and the response time, the number of the image data sets is determined and an html file for displaying images corresponding to the number is transferred to the client. The client then requests transfer of the image data sets that have been determined from the server, and the server transfers the image data sets to the client. In this manner, the client can display the thumbnail images.